

W-X-Lys-Leu-Lys-Asp-Phe-Arg-Val-Tyr-Phe-  
Arg-Glu-Gly-Arg-Asp-Gln-Leu-Trp-Lys-Gly-  
Pro-Gly-Glu-Leu-Leu-Trp-Lys-Gly-Glu-Gly-  
Ala-Val-Leu-Val-Lys-Val-Gly-Y-Z

wherein W is either a H of the amino terminal NH<sub>2</sub> group of the polypeptide or one or more additional amino acids bonded to the amino terminal NH<sub>2</sub> group of the polypeptide, the additional amino acids being selected to facilitate coupling of the polypeptide to a carrier protein or to a support; X is absent, Cys-Gly-Gly; or Lys-Lys, Y is absent, Cys or one or more amino acids added to facilitate coupling; and Z is OH or NH<sub>2</sub> and wherein amino acids in the sequence may be inserted, deleted and substituted so long as immunoreactivity to antibodies to HIV is retained.

Please cancel claim 15.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application which is a continuation of U.S. application serial number 08/904,826, filed August 1, 1997. By this amendment, claim 15, is hereby cancelled without prejudice to continued prosecution of the subject matter encompassed by the claim in a related copending application. Claims 1, 12, and 14 have been amended to clarify the subject matter claimed. Applicants provide herewith a copy of the substitute specification as filed during the prosecution of the parent application to comply with the Sequence Rules. Further, additional amendments to correct obvious clerical or typographical errors have been made to the specification. No new matter has been added to the substitute specification in making the amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2 May 2000

Brian W. Poor  
Brian W. Poor  
Reg. No. 32,928

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: (206) 467-9600  
Fax: (415) 576-0300  
BWP:kmg  
SE 5002620 v1